

REMARKS

This response is responsive to the Office Action of September 23, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eslinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,744) in view of Rangaswamy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,363).

Claims 11 and 22-26 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 1 recites a park brake control valve for controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal.

Eslinger et al. ("Eslinger") discloses a traction control system. However, Eslinger fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, a park brake control valve as recited in **claim 1**.

Rangaswamy et al. ("Rangaswamy") discloses an integrated electronic shift and parking brake system. However, Rangaswamy fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, a park brake control valve controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal as recited in **claim 1**. The Examiner has pointed to an electric park brake control unit (ECU) **32** of Rangaswamy as controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal. However, column 3, lines 51-65 of Rangaswamy, which was specifically pointed to by the Examiner, merely disclose that an electric park brake motor **28** is controlled by the electric park brake control unit (ECU) **32** to

selectively operate brake mechanisms **24, 26** in unison. Although Rangaswamy states the ECU **32** receives several inputs (including an input from shifter **18**), the reference fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, any of the inputs to the ECU **32** controlling the brake mechanisms **24, 26** as a function of a pressure signal (much less a park brake control pressure signal). In addition, Rangaswamy fails to disclose the brake mechanisms **24, 26** being controlled by any pressure signal. More specifically, column 4, lines 16-22 of Rangaswamy state:

ECU **32** is coupled exclusively electrically to shifter **18**, being coupled to the sensor that is associated with the shifter to signal the particular position selected by the shifter. When the shifter **18** is in the PARK position, ECU **32** processes the corresponding signal from the associated sensor to operate electric park brake motor **28** in a manner that causes brake mechanisms **24** and **26** to perform a parking brake function.

For the reasons discussed above, Rangaswamy fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, a park brake control valve controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal as recited in **claim 1**.

As discussed above, neither Eslinger nor Rangaswamy discloses, or is concerned with, a park brake control valve controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal as recited in **claim 1**. Therefore, **claim 1**, along with **claims 2-13** which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Eslinger and Rangaswamy.

Claim 14 recites a first pressure input port communicating with a park brake control pressure signal. As discussed above, neither Eslinger nor Rangaswamy discloses, or is concerned with, a pressure input port communicating with a park brake control pressure signal as recited in **claim 14**. Therefore, **claim 14**, along with **claims 15-19** which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Eslinger and Rangaswamy.

Claim 20 recites controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal applied to a park brake control valve. As discussed above, neither

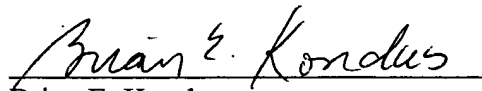
Eslinger nor Rangaswamy discloses, or is concerned with, controlling a park brake of a vehicle as a function of a park brake control pressure signal as recited in **claim 20**. Therefore, **claim 20**, along with **claims 21-26** which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Eslinger and Rangaswamy.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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